

MASSACHUSETTS JUDGES CONFERENCE

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May 22, 2015

Hon. Cynthia Cohen
Chair, Supreme Judicial Court Advisory Committee
On the Judicial Code of Conduct
Massachusetts Appeals Court
John Adams Court House
Boston, MA 01208

Delivery Via Email and USPS

Dear Judge Cohen:

On behalf of the MJC Board of Directors, I want to extend our appreciation for your time and commitment as Chair, and that of every member of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Judicial Code of Conduct, to analyzing and revising the Code over the past three years. The briefing you led on April 26, 2015, with the Board, educated judges about the spirit and substance of changes contemplated by the Advisory Committee and the Court.

As a practical matter, the Committee's effort to clarify the code will support judges' compliance with the Code. In addition, provisions that permit judges to serve the public good beyond the bench and address the public about issues that are central to the administration of justice will inspire judges. The MJC Board understands the complexities of pro bono vs paid representation when cases before the JCC require counsel. We look forward to working with the SJC to find a suitable insurance based solution to offer as an option to Trial and Appellate judges.

Finally, please know that the Board deeply appreciates the fact that you, as Chair, contacted the MJC to provide a briefing and sought input from them. Please accept this letter as the MJC's support for the changes proposed by the Committee. We welcome the opportunity to be involved in any effort to educate judges in advance of its implementation.

Sincerely yours,

Hon. Thomas C. Horgan
First Justice, Boston Municipal Court, Central Division
President, Massachusetts Judges Conference

cc: Board of Directors
Robert P. Clayman, M.Ed., JD, Executive Director